

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated February 23, 2004, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, as are claim 25 and 28-32 directed to the non-elected invention. Claims 12, 23 and 24 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cima et al. (USPN 5,387,380), for the reasons substantially of record.

The indication that claims 12, 23 and 24 are allowable is acknowledged and appreciated.

To expedite prosecution, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, as are claim 25 and 28-32 directed to the non-elected invention.

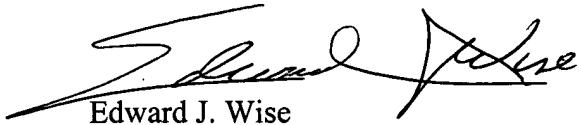
CONCLUSION

Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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